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TOSEC 311

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION AQABA FROM SECSTATE FEB 15

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TOSEC 311

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 3997 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 2/14/75

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 03997

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, MX

SUBJECT: ILO: STRATEGY ON POSTPONEMENT OF PLO

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT THE ILO

REF: STATE 021869

1. SUMMARY. BROWN REACTS NEGATIVELY TO UMBRELLA
ARRANGEMENT REGARDING PLO STATUS AS OBSERVER IN ILO
AND REPEATS DETERMINATION TO FIGHT ISSUE IN GB MARCH
MEETING. END SUMMARY.

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2. FIRST GOOD OPPORTUNITY LABATT HAD TO DISCUSS SUBJECT MATTER WITH IRVING BROWN WAS 12 FEBRUARY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM LONDON. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED TO KNOW OF U.S. APPROACH TO GOVERNMENTS AND NOT AT ALL SURPRISED BY THEIR NEGATIVE ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECT OF POSTPONEMENT.

3. LABATT MENTIONED "UMBRELLA ARRANGEMENT" REGARDING PLO ADMISSION AS OBSERVER AS HIS OWN PERSONAL ESTIMATE OF WHAT IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN AND ASKED WHETHER HE HAD THOUGHT AT ALL ABOUT IT AS A COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO AN OBVIOUSLY DIFFICULT SITUATION. BROWN'S RESPONSE WAS VIGOROUSLY NEGATIVE. HE KNEW THAT THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN ADVOCATED AND IS BEING CONSIDERED BUT HE WILL HAVE NONE OF IT. HE SAID CLEARLY THAT HE WILL FIGHT IT IN THE GB BY RAISING THE OBVIOUS QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE, NAMELY, THAT ILO IS A TRIPARTITE ORGANIZATION WITH CLEARLY DEFINED TERMS OF REFERENCE WHICH PROVIDE NO PLACE FOR ANY OTHER TYPE OF ORGANIZATION THAN GOVERNMENTS, EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS. HE CONTENDED THAT "UMBRELLA FORMULA" WILL NOT PREVENT THE KURDS OR THE IRA OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR GROUP TO CLAIM A SIMILAR OBSERVER STATUS AS IS NOW CLAIMED BY PLO.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO HIS TRIP TO LONDON HE SAID THAT HE HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN GETTING U.K. WORKER DELEGATE PLANT TO AGREE WITH HIM ON NEED TO POSTPONE DG DISCUSSION OF PLO ISSUE. WHEN PLANT BROADENED DISCUSSION TO INCLUDE ILO BUDGET MATTERS, ESPECIALLY THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL \$60 MILLION TO SUPPLEMENT ILO BUDGET BECAUSE OF INFLATION AND FALLING DOLLAR RATE, BROWN TOLD HIM THAT IF PLO IS ACCORDED OBSERVER STATUS BY DG IN MARCH IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT U.S. WILL INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO ASSUME PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF FOREGOING \$60 MILLION. HE AGAIN INTIMATED LIKELIHOOD OF AFL-CIO WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO.

5. BROWN WAS QUICK TO EXPRESS RESERVATIONS NOT ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH PLANT BUT ALSO WITH DGB OFFICIALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGARDING WHAT THEY SAY IN PRIVATE TO HIM AND WHAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO DO IN PUBLIC IN DG MEETINGS. HE ADDED THAT HE HAS SIMILAR DOUBTS ABOUT THE ICFTU.

6. LABATT MENTIONED AGAIN HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF PLO ISSUE SEEM TO ALLOW VERY LITTLE ROOM FOR A POSTPONEMENT DEVICE, MAJOR HANDICAP IS FACT THAT AN ARAB (MOROCCAN LABOR MINISTER)

IS GB CHAIRMAN WHO CANNOT REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED
TO SET ASIDE PLO ISSUE. BROWN RECOGNIZED THIS AS
A FACT OF LIFE, ADDING THAT HE TALKED TO THE
TUNISIANS ABOUT IT BUT THEY TOO COULD NOT SEE HOW
THEY COULD BROACH POSTPONEMENT IDEA TO THE MOROCCAN
CHAIRMAN EVEN THOUGH THEY AGREED THAT POSTPONEMENT
WOULD BE USEFUL. HE CONCLUDED THAT HE IS UNDER
INSTRUCTIONS TO SPEAK UP IN THE GB MEETING AND IS
PREPARED TO DO SO COME WHAT MAY.

7. COMMENT: IF ANYTHING, FOREGOING REINFORCED
CONCLUSION ALREADY REPORTED TO THE EFFECT THAT BROWN'S
INSTRUCTIONS SEEM CLEAR, NAMELY, TO FIGHT FROM GB
FLOOR THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND OBSERVER STATUS TO PLO.
THE ONLY POSSIBILITY WE SEE FOR HIM TO SEEK CHANGE
OF INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE IF AT WORKER GROUP
PRELIMINARY MEETING IN GENEVA IT BECOMES CLEAR
THAT NO ONE OF THE WORKER MEMBERS OF GB IS PREPARED
TO SPEAK UP ON THE ISSUE.

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